

STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT

Clarke Press Release

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For Immediate Release
Sen. Hansen Clarke

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CLARKE'S VIDEO GAME LEGISLATION ADOPTED BY SENATE

LANSING- State Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) expressed his personal gratitude today to his Senate colleagues for adopting Senate Bill 249 that prohibits the sale of adult-rated video games to children. The legislation now advances to the State House of Representatives.

"I want to thank my Senate colleagues for taking this important first step on behalf of Michigan's families," said Sen. Clarke. "My legislation leaves it to parents, not retailers or the video gaming industry, to determine if children should be playing adult-themed video games."

To win public support for his legislation, Senator Clarke has held public hearings in Lansing and Detroit gathering testimony on the issue of violent video games and children. The testimony from the hearings has strongly supported the case that there is a compelling state interest in acting on this matter.

A recent independent investigation, conducted at the request of the Granholm Administration, found that children, ranging from age 9 to 16, were able to purchase adult-rated video games (rated M for Mature) at 26 of 58 stores in six participating counties. These results closely mirror a national study done last year by the Federal Trade Commission that found that more than two thirds of children under 17 were able to purchase "M" rated games and 87 percent of boys under the age of 17 have played "M" rated games.

"Businesses that are already behaving responsibly toward our children have nothing to fear from this legislation," said Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit). "It's only those few businesses that aren't taking their responsibility to the public seriously that would be impacted."

PLEASE NOTE: A downloadable audio file of Sen. Clarke commenting on his video game legislation can be accessed at: <http://www.senate.mi.gov/Audio%20Clips/01-051205.wav>

